

## **APPENDIX A            CLAIMS (STATUS)**

1     1. (Canceled) A transfer tool for the collection and transporting of a spilled material from  
2     a spillage area comprising:  
3     a deformable substrate member having deposited on the surface thereof a coating of a  
4     material having a high affinity for said spilled material.

1     2. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 1 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

1     3. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 2 wherein said deformable substrate member  
2     with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated  
3     members taken from the group of a contacting quantity of particles, woven and matted  
4     filaments, metal powders and particle sponges.

1     4. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 3 wherein said deformable substrate member  
2     with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated metal  
3     members in at least one of particle or filamentary form and taken from the group of copper,  
4     zinc and silver.

1     5. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 4 wherein said coating of a material having a  
2     high affinity for said spilled material is gold.

1 6. (Canceled) In the transferring of spilled material through the use of an intermediate  
2 absorber member for the spilled material,  
3 the improvement comprising:

4 a deformable absorber member in a form of at least one of a contacting quantity of  
5 particles and a filamentary arrangement and the interstices of said absorber being coated  
6 with a thin coating of a material having a high affinity for said spilled material.

1 7. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 6 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

1 8. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 7 wherein said material having a high affinity  
2 for said spilled material is gold.

1 9. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 8 wherein the material in said deformable  
2 absorber are of metal taken from the group of copper, zinc and silver.

1 10. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 9 wherein said deformable absorber is at least  
2 one braid of copper wires.

1 11. (Canceled) In the handling of spilled material through transfer from the spillage  
2 location, the improvement comprising:  
3 the use of a deformable absorber member with a thin surface coating of a material that  
4 has a high affinity for said spilled material.

1 12. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 11 wherein said deformable absorber member  
2 is at least one of a quantity of contacting particles and intertwined filaments that impart  
3 a wicking capability with respect to a spillage in liquid form.

1 13. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said deformable absorber  
2 member is at least one braid of woven copper wires.

1 14. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 13 wherein said deformable absorber  
2 member is contacting quantity of particles supported in an inert tubular holder.

1 15. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said spilled material is  
2 mercury and said elements of said deformable absorber member are coated with gold.

1 16. (Currently amended) A transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a  
2 quantity of spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising:  
3 a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said contacting member  
4 consisting of inert covering means in combination with ~~of at least one material~~ a wicking  
5 transfer element selected from the group consisting of particles, woven and matted filaments,  
6 ~~metal~~ powders and particle sponges, said contacting member being formed from a metal  
7 selected from the group consisting of copper silver and zinc and,  
8 a coating of a gold wetting agent on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting  
9 said spillage area.

1     17. (Currently Amended) The process of collection and transporting of a quantity of  
2     spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising the steps of:  
3     providing a deformable absorbable hand tool serving as a spillage area contacting  
4     member,  
5     forming said member from inert covering means in combination with a wicking material  
6     ~~being formed of at least one material~~ selected from the group consisting of particles,  
7     woven and matted filaments, ~~metal~~ powders and particle sponges, and  
8     said contacting member ~~having~~ formed to have a deformable region and a contacting  
9     region and  
10    forming said contacting member from a metal selected from the group consisting of  
11    copper silver and zinc and  
12    ~~having a coating of said metal comprising said contacting member with a coating of~~ gold,  
13    positioning said member with said deformable area in contact with said spillage area,  
14    and, moving said member over said spillage area,  
15    transporting of a quantity of liquid spilled mercury from said spillage area.

1     18. (New) The transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of  
2     spilled mercury from a spillage area defined in Claim 16 wherein said said wicking  
3     transfer element is a copper particle.

1     19. (New) The transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of  
2     spilled mercury from a spillage area defined in Claim 16 wherein said said wicking  
3     transfer element is a copper filament.

1 20. (New) The transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of  
2 spilled mercury from a spillage area defined in Claim 19 wherein said said copper16  
3 filaments are present in the form of a braided filaments.